VIETNAM COURIER

August 11
1969
No. 229
6th Year

Information Weekly — E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

In this Issue :

Development of Higher Education and Secondary Vocational Education in War Time

Page 4

South Viet Nam

PLAF SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS AT A BIA AND CAM RANH

- Southwest of Hue: 1 US Armoured Battalion and 2 Airborne Battalions Badly Mauled; 300 Adverse Troops and 25 Tanks and Armoured Cars Put out of Action on August 3 and 5.
- **Saigon and Da Nang Areas: 7 Enemy Companies Wiped Out or Decimated.**
- **Cam Ranh Airfield Stormed on August 7: About 100 GI Casualties, According to American Sources.**
- **In July, 4,000 Adverse Soldiers Disabled in the Northernmost Provinces of South Viet Nam and 1,200 Others in Tay Ninh, Northwest of Saigon.**

North Viet Nam

On August 6, 1969, at Dawn, an American Pilotless Plane Was Grounded in Nam Ha Province

Between August 5, 1964 and August 6, 1969,

3,313

US Aircraft Were Downed in North Viet Nam

"De-Americanisation" of the War

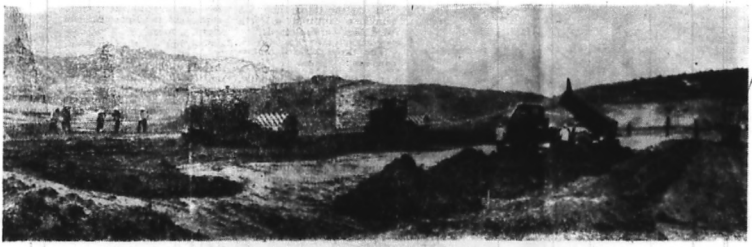
Utter Impotence and Tragic Fate of US Troops in South Viet Nam

THE Washington ruling circles seem today unanimous in "de-Americanizing" their aggression in Viet Nam, or, to use their favourite term, "Vietnamize" it. Essentially, they wish to be able to pull their troops out of South Viet Nam inasmuch that the puppet troops reach adequate strength to allow them to pursue their neo-colonialist policy there. US propaganda machine has been telling the peoples at large that Nixon has spawned a new doctrine: "Asia to Asians," inspired by the noble principle of self determination of the peoples. The Vietnamese people in their own way appraise this by recalling one of their sayings: "Unable to kill you, he is generous enough to spare you." In fact, one must find the reason behind this "de-Americanisation" in the complete powerlessness and the pitiful plight of US troops in South Viet Nam. It is evident in both aspects of the strategic aims of the US command: "exert maximum military pressure" and "cut down US losses to the minimum."

HEAVIER TASKS FOR MORE EXHAUSTED FORCES

THE *Tet* 1968 offensives shattered for ever the Pentagon war-maniacs' hope to win a military victory over the South Viet Nam patriots. The "two prongs of the pincers" strategy — "search and destroy" and "pacification" — worked out by Westmoreland has been scrapped. Westy's successor has taken great pains to put into effect the "clear and hold" strategy characterized by markedly defensive action and passivity. The already exhausted US expeditionary corps has seen its task not alleviated but considerably increased in the new phase. Besides defending important towns and US bases and serving as a shield for the puppet army to carry out its "housekeeping" job — pacification — the Americans have also been assigned such new tasks as to repel or at least to limit PLAF attacks, to counter the adversary's infiltration into

(*Continued page 8*)



In North Viet Nam, the growing of the Summer — Autumn crop is in full swing.

In the photo: *Building of a dam and 11 kilometres of irrigation canal at Tako, in the mountainous province of Lang Son.*

Mr XUAN THUY: President Nixon's Claim Is Only Lip-Service

THE Paris Conference on Viet Nam held its 29th plenary session at 10:30 hrs (Paris time) on August 7, 1969.

Minister Xuan Thuy, head of the delegation of the DRVN Government, refuted point by point Nixon's 8-point program which he said was intended to continue the US aggression in Viet Nam and carry out the US scheme of "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war which in essence is to use Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese, prolong the war of aggression and US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.

The DRVN chief negotiator produced concrete evidence of US continued encroachment upon the DRVN sovereignty and security by flying 1,090 reconnaissance missions over North Viet Nam in July, bombing many places from Vinh Linh area to Nghe An province while stepping up its military activities in South Viet Nam to exert "maximum pressure" and gain a position of strength at the negotiation tat le. All this proves that US President Nixon claim that the US has "gone far enough" in "opening the doors to peace" is only lip-service.

He pointed to many contradictions in the statements made by the US president during his recent Asian tour to prove that Nixon has not yet given up the US policy of aggression and intervention in Asian countries, instead wants to continue its role as an international gendarme, carry out its neo-colonialism, and play off Asians against Asians.

Minister Xuan Thuy again said that as the aggressor in Viet Nam, the US must stop its aggression, withdraw all its troops and troops of other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam without any condition. It must let the Vietnamese people settle their internal affairs themselves: such a course of action is called for by justice, law and conscience; it is the legitimate demand of the Vietnamese people, the American people and peoples all over the world.

Referring to Nixon's visit to Saigon, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, said it was an indication that Nixon's concern was not peace but the continuation of the war, not "gradual disengagement," but tighter commitment to the Saigon puppet administration. This has been denounced by many American newspapers and senators. To back her charges, she mentioned US intensification of its aggressive war in South Viet Nam, its terror raids and bombardments against South Viet Nam civilians and its order to the Thieu - Ky - Huong clique to suppress and persecute anyone who approves peace, independence and neutrality. Far from "going far enough" on the road to peace as it claimed, Mme Binh said, the US has "gone far enough" in prolonging the war and playing its peace hoax. The US must be held fully responsible for the dragging out of the war and the sufferings and deaths in South Viet Nam, the chief negotiator of the PRG of South Viet Nam Republic concluded.

Mme Bui Thi Cam (centre), member of the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with the American People and the American delegation of the movement against US aggression in Viet Nam, interviewed by the press.

The three released American militarymen replying to newsmen.

Nothing New in Nixon's Asian Policy

ONE knows that since long, the American imperialists, implementing their aggressive and bellicose policy, have been attaching paramount importance to Asia. They have left no stone unturned to implant and maintain their neo-colonialist regime, and to stem the mounting national liberation movement there. However, it only is fair that, in these last two decades, they have sustained the heaviest defeats, chiefly in China, Korea, Viet Nam and Laos.

The setbacks they have suffered in Viet Nam, which embrace all fields and profoundly influence all their domestic and foreign policies are the most disastrous ones and haunted Nixon's mind throughout his recent Asian trip.

In order to get US neo-colonialism out of its predicament, the American president has been ballyhooing US "new Asian policy." But what is that "novelty"?

The American ruling circles and press reveal that it consists,

— with regard to Viet Nam, in gradually de-Americanizing the war, that is continuing to fight the South Viet Nam people through the medium of the puppet administration and army and, with regard to other Asian countries which are US neo-colonies, tightening US political control, stepping up economic "aid" and military training and pouring in more military equipment as well as stamping out the revolutionary movement there;

— vis à vis the Asian countries where the puppet rulers are weak and the revolutionary movement is ebullient, avoiding "new Viet Nams" while keeping military forces, mainly air and naval forces, ready to intervene;

— in other dependent countries in Asia, buying off and enticing their rulers with US "aid" into greater subservience to US reactionary policy and utilizing US nuclear umbrella to make them tail after the US;

— in the condition where the SEATO aggressive bloc is in disintegration, and US defence line in Southeast Asia is broken, setting up new US-manoeuvred military alliances to play off Asians against Asians, oust the French, British and other imperialists and "arrogate" to the US the right to infiltrate countries in this part of the world.

Thus the US "new Asian policy" is nothing else but the neo-colonialism it has been trying to impose on Asia for years. If there is something new at all, it is precisely the machiavellism with which Mr. Nixon tries to gain his ends.

Quan Doi Nhan Dan
(People's Army, Aug. 4, 1969)

Released US Servicemen Handed Over in Hanoi

THREE American militarymen captured in North Viet Nam and released by decision of the Viet Nam People's Army General Political Department were handed over on August 4, 1969 in Hanoi to the American anti-war delegation headed by Rennie Davis of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam, which had come to escort them back to the United States.

It was the third time US servicemen captured in North Viet Nam were released.

The three released Americans are:

1. Wesley Lewis Rumble, born on July 18, 1943, First Lieutenant in the US Air Force, service number F43153865, Tactical Fighter Squadron 389, Tactical Fighter Wing 366, US airbase in Da Nang, South Viet Nam, flying an *F4D*, captured in Quang Binh on April 28, 1966.

2. Robert Frenchot Frishman, born on December 18, 1940, Lieutenant J.G. in the US Navy, service number 642530, attached to VF 151, Air Wing 15, USS *Coral Sea*, US Seventh Fleet in the Pacific, flying an *F-4B*, captured in Hanoi on October 24, 1967; and

3. Douglas Brent Hegdahl, born on September 3, 1946, seaman apprentice in the US Navy, service number B62-63 31, USS *Canberra*, US Seventh Fleet in the Pacific, captured in Nghe An on April 5, 1967.

Speaking on the occasion, Mme Bui Thi Cam, on behalf of the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with the American People of which she is a Secretariat member, denounced US monstrous crimes against the Vietnamese people both in the North and the South. The US imperialists, she said, have destroyed many towns, cities and villages, massacred many civilians, including women, children and old people, ravaged crops and vegetation.

She described American pilots captured in North Viet Nam as "offenders caught red-handed in the act of serious crimes against the Vietnamese people. They are guilty in the eye of the laws of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and may not claim protection under the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 on the treatment of prisoners-of-war. When adhering to the said Convention, the Government of the DRVN made explicit reservations, especially with regard to Article 85."

"However," Mme Bui Thi Cam went on, "when captured, American pilots are treated in accordance with the humanitarian policy of the Government of the DRVN. Those who are wounded or ill are given adequate and timely medical attention."

Children's Welfare in DRVN

EVER since the early days of the 1945 August Revolution, President Ho Chi Minh and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have paid great attention to the health of the people, especially of the children.

The "Children Welfare Committee" was set up at the very beginning of the Resistance War.

After the re-establishment of peace in 1954, the urgent task set to the public health service for the welfare of children was, apart from eradicating widespread diseases left by the French troops, to build a network of health stations and maternity homes in the countryside and to fight epidemics affecting mostly children. By 1965, 5,564 maternity homes had been built in North Viet Nam, serving all town quarters, big enterprises where women workers were numerous, all the villages in the delta and most mountain villages. Parallel with these lying-in stations, infirmaries were opened for the treatment of grown-ups, and children's diseases, for anti-epidemic and anti-malaria work and preventive hygiene.

Since the end of 1965, Committees for the Mothers and Children's Welfare have been set up at all levels from villages, factories, farms, construction yards and public offices, up to provinces, municipalities, zones and the central level, under the direct leadership of the correspondent administrative committees.

In order to attend to sick children, the public health service has included in each hospital a pediatric section and has built many hospitals for children. On the whole, 25 percent of hospital beds are reserved for children.

Alongside the treatment of children's diseases, the health service has widely popularized among the population, including the children, the motto "live, eat and drink in accordance with hygiene" and step up prophylactic work against epidemics. In 1965, there were in North Viet Nam more than 800 gynaecologists and pediatricians, or 15 times more than in 1955. There are now in North Viet Nam over 100 times more medical personnel specialized in obstetrics and pediatrics than in the whole country under French rule.

For the welfare of children, the State has set up many nurseries at public offices, schools, factories, farms and construction sites. In the towns and co-operatives, there exist a large number of self-managed nurseries. In the parts of the countryside where conditions are not favourable to the setting up of permanent baby-farms, there are creches during harvest days. The nurses in charge of the little ones have attended courses opened by public health services at various levels and have been trained in attending to their health and diet, and taught notions of hygienic nursing of children.

In every town district, there is a station for the welfare of mothers and children, which, in villages and enterprises, is part of maternity homes; its mission is to advise women on how to bring up their children and about birth control.

The movement of preventive hygiene and of active medical treatment has eliminated a number of diseases which used to play havoc among children. Smallpox was stamped out as early as 1958. In 1964, only 207 children were affected with poliomyelitis (of which 7 died), which represents a reduction by 30 times compared with 1959. Malaria has been eradicated in most provinces, where formerly it killed many children and stunted the growth of great numbers of others, particularly in the highlands.

The number of children in the early stage of TB infection has dropped sharply owing to widespread injection, since 1961, of dead BCG vaccine to children 2 or 3 days after their birth. Poliomyelitis and tetanus which mostly affect newborn babies and children went down respectively from 1.6 and 4 per 100,000 inhabitants in 1964 to 0.06 and 0.45 in 1968. The death rate of tetanus declined in the same period from 42.72 percent to 6.52 percent. Up to 1965 the death rate of newborn babies had fallen to 4 per thousand, one of the lowest rates in the world.

As from August 5, 1964 the US brought the war to the North; its air raids on economic establishments, schools, hospitals and populous areas of the DRVN called for the government and people's ever greater attention to the protection of children.

Along with the policy of systematic evacuation of population centres, the State earmarked a substantial sum to help move children to safety. On the other hand, the Government had given orders to the education, public health, trade, and other services to help evacuated children by all means. The education service closed the schools in cities and towns and sent schoolchildren to the countryside. The public health service has set up small polyclinics and pediatric sections in various places. The health services at all levels and big hospitals, split into small groups and evacuated to various regions, sponsored one or several evacuated or local nurseries and kindergartens.

Other nurseries and kindergartens are regularly visited by mobile medical teams, and sick children are given on-the-spot care. Preventive injections are widely given to children. Though many difficulties have arisen due to the war, the services concerned are striving to raise the children's rice ration and to guarantee their rations of milk, sugar and meat. Many enterprises for the processing of babies and children's foods have been built in various cities and provinces.

The children evacuated to any given locality were immediately helped by the local inhabitants who readily accommodated them in their houses and dig anti-aircraft shelters for them.

The Viet Nam Women's Union has stepped up the consolidation and development of nurseries in the countryside to give women more opportunities to take part in production, fighting and other activities. In 1968 alone, 18,641 nurses were trained to look after nurseries and kindergartens whose population now includes 25 per cent of the pre-school age children in the countryside and 39 percent at construction centres, factories and Government offices.

The Viet Nam Working Youth Union has used school premises to organize clubs for children during Summer vacation. Schoolchildren are frequently drilled in civil defence. The Red Cross Society has co-operated with the public health service in the expansion of first-aid and emergency work, and acquainted a great number of schoolchildren with Red Cross work.

Speaking on behalf of the American anti-war delegation, Jim Johnson of the National Black Anti-War, Anti-Draft Union, said:

"We are here today representing a movement of Americans dedicated to the immediate withdrawal of all US troops from Viet Nam, a movement that every day grows in numbers and militancy.

"Only a few years ago, our movement was based on a simple moral protest against the bloodshed of this war. Now, we demand the unconditional, total and immediate withdrawal of troops and dismantling of US bases in Viet Nam.

"Only a few years ago, we spoke of peace in Viet Nam. Now, millions of Americans are demanding an end to the system that produced this war. Our movement is calling for self-determination for the people of Viet Nam and for the people of other countries all over the globe.

"Today, we represent a popular sentiment that can no longer be ignored by the Nixon administration. We say this with a deep sense of pride. We know, as these pilots must know, that all over the world the United States has been branded an outlaw nation. We believe we have begun to create the possibility of changing America and that the very survival of our nation in the world depends upon our success."

"In the past two weeks," he went on, "we have travelled over 1,100 kilometres from Hanoi to the Demilitarized Zone and back again. We have seen with our own eyes the destruction, devastation and suffering from one million tons of explosives caused by the American government. But more importantly, we have seen that underneath the most massive bombardment ever known to warfare, a people have united, fought back and won. Viet Nam's economy has not collapsed; it has flourished. Viet Nam's determination has not been broken, it has grown. Viet Nam has not been bombed back to the Stone Age, as promised by Curtis Lemay. What we have seen is a Viet Nam moving into the 21st century.

"We have come to know something about Viet Nam, something about its future and about its history. We know, for example, that this country has always had a humanitarian policy towards the captured men from other countries who have invaded this land. We know that this has been the policy towards the Americans who have been captured in this war. We hope that our presence here today can in some small way help to demonstrate this long, historic policy of the Vietnamese. We hope that our travels here can help more Americans to understand the enormous unity and strength of this nation of peasants and workers. And we hope that these Americans who are being released to us might raise their own voices with the tens of millions of other Americans who are now demanding an end to US aggression in Viet Nam.

"We consider it fitting that I, a Black man and an ex-GI who spent 28 months in US prisons for refusing to fight against the Vietnamese people, should read this statement. Thousands of American GIs now feel that their fight is not with the people of Viet Nam. Their fight is with those who make war in this country. We return now to the United States, proud that our movement might help these men return to their families and country."

The three released American militarymen then took turns in expressing, each in his own way, their deep gratitude to the Vietnamese people, the DRVN Government and the Viet Nam People's Army, for this humanitarian act as well as for the humane treatment they had received throughout their detention. All of them said that through the visits they had been allowed to make to some cultural and art establishments in North Viet Nam, they had come to understand better the centuries-old culture of the Vietnamese, their desire for peace, freedom and independence, and their determination to defend their country.

News in Brief

● In 1968, the aggregate value of local industrial output increased by 2.1 per cent over 1967 and 8.7 per cent over 1964, year before the US war of destruction. Compared with 1967, the boost swings between 10 and 14 per cent in some important branches such as: engineering, fertilizers, chemicals, cement, earthenware, chinaware, glassware, foodstuffs, textiles.

In the first half of 1969, the total value of local industrial output rose by 5.2 per cent compared with the corresponding period of last year.

● In the first half of 1969, the tea harvested by State farms rose by 6.9 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The Robasta coffee yields on state farms in the southern provinces, formerly hard hit by US air and naval forces, recorded a 96 per cent increase.

● 1,600 students graduated from the Economy and Planning College, 75 per cent of whom were trained according to the system of refresher courses or courses reserved for civil servants.

— The Culinary Art Secondary School handed diplomas to 128 students (mostly women) of the third batch. Since 1963, the school has trained 362 technicians and 1,700 specialized workers in this line.

— 46 students of the third batch of the Physical Culture and Sports College have completed their course. Up to now that school and the Physical Culture and Sports Secondary School have trained over one thousand cadres of various athletic disciplines: gymnastics, swimming, football, volley-ball etc...

Development of Higher Education and Secondary Vocational Education in War Time

HOANG XUAN TUY

Vice-Minister of Higher Education and Secondary Vocational Education

AT the beginning of 1965, when the American imperialists started bombing and strafing fiercely North Viet Nam, higher education and secondary vocational education found itself on the horns of a dilemma: either to restrict the training of cadres, or to develop rapidly and vigorously to meet the country's immediate and future needs in qualified personnel.

Enlightened by the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, we chose the second alternative, prompted by the resolve to defeat the American imperialists on the front of education and training of cadres.

In more than three years of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, our branch not only satisfactorily fulfilled the evacuating and dispersing to safety of its establishments so that teachers and students could carry on as usual, but also successfully strove to discharge two wartime basic tasks, i. e., **to actively develop the training and continuously improve its quality.**

Despite many difficulties, particularly the shortage of teachers and equipment for scientific study (these difficulties have been increased by the war), we have raised the number of colleges from 20 to 35, that of secondary vocational schools from 65 to 190, and their enrolment from 26,000 to 75,000 and from 45,000 to 150,000 respectively.

Meanwhile, we tried to enhance the quality of training a step further, especially in politics and ideology. In the past, when we were in the towns in peace-time, teachers and students rarely got into touch with life and production. When the war broke out, they moved to the countryside, shared the life of workers and peasants, were in a position to get first-hand experience of social realities. Through practice, they better understood many problems connected with the people's life, better realized the significance of the patriotic resistance and social struggle, of value of labour as the source of all material wealth, and as a result, love for the country and socialism has been fostered, the revolutionary sentiment towards the workers and peasants has been made clear and enhanced, the sense of unconditionally serving the revolution and the people as well as the relation between service and retribution has been defined in a more balanced way.

Thanks to their intimate contacts with social life, production and combat, many schools have hit upon various devices to teach and learn on the "learning while working" line—to work in order to consolidate and deepen what one learns, to work in order to train a man in an overall manner — in implementation of the educational guideline of the Viet Nam Workers' Party "to square theory with practice, to learn while working, to coordinate education at school with education in the society."

The students graduated in the war years not only achieved quite high cultural and theoretical standards but also skill in applying theory to practice and organizing and mobilizing the masses, revolutionary will and feeling, and in fact they have been thought highly of in many places where they work.

WHY were higher education and secondary vocational education able to carry through such a difficult and complex task in war time?

First of all, under the close leadership of the Party committees at all levels, the colleges and secondary vocational schools showed great zeal in strictly and correctly implementing the directives and resolution of the Party Central Committee and the Government on the education and training of cadres, namely:

1. To evacuate and disperse all teachers and students to safety.

The evacuation of colleges and secondary vocational schools from the towns to the countryside, midlands and uplands, was no simple job. Apart from school furniture, one had also to move libraries, machines and laboratory equipment. Then one had to build classrooms, offices, laboratories and dormitories with adequate shelters. Teachers and students relied on themselves and on the help of the local people, overcame difficulties caused by the circumstances, carried on the teaching, learning and researches.

2. To intensify political and ideological education for the teachers, students, and administrative personnel to fully grasp the line of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, the line of socialist building in the North, the educational line and standpoint of the Viet Nam Workers' Party. This has become an extensive political movement in the entire branch launched since 1967. Many positive results have been scored. In every school, a revolutionary upsurge has taken place; solidarity has been strengthened; erroneous points, especially the influence of bourgeois, imperialist, and feudal outlooks have been bared and criticized; only the sound conception of the proletariat on education and the school has been given prominence.

In the past, when assessing the quality of the training, the main tendency of the teachers and students was to lay emphasis on the cultural, scientific and technical standards, and on bookish knowledge. After indoctrination everybody now understands that one must make an accurate and comprehensive appraisal of the quality of the training and achieve a balance between politics and knowledge, between theory and practice.

3. To push ahead the Party-building work in all schools regarding it as the soul of political and ideological agitation, the important guarantee that the educational work of the school follows the Party's line and standpoint.

After going through the above-mentioned drive of study, the understanding of the position and leading role of the Viet Nam Workers' Party in all schools has been enhanced. The periodical conferences of Party committees at various levels constitute so many mobilization rallies in the schools. Everybody, inside and outside the Party, zealously takes part in discussions, gives his suggestion to the leadership over such great problems in the school as political and ideological education, Party-building, building of mass organizations, objectives of the training, orientation of the development of the schools, organization of the community, formation and promotion of teachers and administrators, organization and management of the school life...

4. To step up the training and fostering of cadres.

After more than three years of war, the teaching staff of colleges and secondary vocational schools has increased over twofold. But what is more important is that it has undergone many qualitative changes. Their political and ideological levels and ability to make use of the Party's line and standpoint in their work, and to link theory with the practice of production and the fighting have ceaselessly been raised. Possessed of a higher level, they have begun improving curricula and syllabuses in line with the guiding principles: more conform to the world's latest achievements of science and technology, and closely coordinated with the country's realities *. The time devoted to many subjects has been shortened but their content made more concise, practical and suitable to the objectives of training.

5. To organize the life of students, teachers and administrative personnel, to actively strengthen the material and technical bases for the teaching and research. Each college or secondary vocational school has at least a 400-500, at most a 4,000-5,000 population. In the condition of war and evacuation, the size of the student body accounted for many difficulties in the organization of the material and moral life as well as in the creation of the material and technical bases necessary for the teaching, learning and scientific research. However, relying on their own efforts and displaying courage, creativeness and energy, teachers and students side by side with the administrative personnel rapidly laid down modest material bases where to settle down. Many experiences have been drawn which are valuable not only in war time but also in peace-time, about the manufacture of equipment and teaching aids in a number of schools, the activities of a students' club in an evacuation place...

Moreover, many efforts have also been exerted as regards other jobs like enrolment of students, physical training and sports, training on the job, scientific research...

PRACTICE in more than three years has led us to the following preliminary conclusions:

1. Education and training of cadres must never deviate from the Party's line and revolutionary task. From the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, new obligations have arisen for the training of scientific, technical and economic management cadres. They are related to many fields: national defence, communications and transport, industrial production, agricultural production, culture, education, public health. These are both short-term and long-term ones; they are connected with the North and with the whole country. Clearly enough, in face of these heavy tasks one should not restrict but must instead develop education and the training of cadres. Of course, in wartime conditions, one must reckon with war difficulties as well as with subjective difficulties in the process of development to find an appropriate way and secure the best results.

2. In education and the training of cadres, one must pay utmost attention to political and ideological indoctrination. The past years of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, were years of gruelling test for our colleges and secondary vocational schools. But, thanks to the common revolutionary mettle of the entire people, to a political and ideological education in the schools, teachers and students, and administrative staff zealously tided over difficulties and fulfilled their task.

3. While grasping and carrying into effect the standpoints of the Viet Nam Workers' Party on the education and training of scientific-technical cadres, economic management cadres, one must take the following as basic guiding principle: **the school is an efficient instrument of proletarian dictatorship, and educational work is a very important part of the ideological and cultural revolution.****

Over the past years, we have thoroughly grasped this basic principle and others of the Viet Nam Workers' Party on the education and training of cadres in every activity of the school. We have fought with success against the influences and ideological vestiges of non-proletarian classes. We have strictly adhered to the Party's line on cadres in the enrolment of students, training and fostering of the teaching staff for the school.

The above-said bears a high significance with regard to the fulfilment of the short term task of each college and secondary vocational school, but also with the future extension of higher education and secondary vocational education.

* *Resolution No. 142 — NQTW of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee (June 28, 1969).*

** *Directive No. 169 — CT/TW of the Secretariat, Party Central Committee (February 14, 1969).*

US War Crimes in Viet Nam in July 1969

SOUTH VIET NAM

EVERY day, even every hour, the American imperialists unleashed their aircraft against populated areas. In an area (near the Cambodian frontier) less than 2,500 metres long, B.52s flew on July 5 up to 60 sorties, dropping 2,000 tons of bombs.

Thousands of "sweeps" and terrorist raids were mounted against civilians. In July alone, 1,561 missions of propeller-driven aircraft and 23,104 of helicopters were made, destroying fields and villages and inflicting many casualties on the people.

The spraying of toxic chemicals on the populated areas in Kontum province and the DMZ poisoned thousands of people and devastated thousands of hectares of ricefields and other croplands. On July 4, such sprayings were carried out even in the periphery of Quang Ngai town, at Phu Nghia and along the Con river, Binh Khe district, Binh Dinh province.

On US orders, the Saigon quislings raised the puppet strength from 822,300 to 908,000 men to take a bigger warload.

On July 23 alone, up to 50 battalion-size operations were launched by the puppet army.

On July 24, four days after Nixon's arrival in Saigon, Nguyen Van Thieu declared he would never accept a coalition government and threatened to punish everyone who would refer to it. Besides he gave orders to arrest about 20 people including intellectuals, journalists and even members of the Saigon administration and army under the pretext that they had got in touch with the NFL, and to close down the *Tia Sang* (Ray of Light) for having spoken of freedom of franchise. He gave instructions to his "embassy" in West Germany to crack down — with threat to send them into the army and cutting their scholarship — all South Vietnamese students who would oppose the Saigon puppet administration.

NORTH VIET NAM

ACCORDING to preliminary statistics, US (manned or unmanned) spy planes flew up to 1,400 sorties over all North Viet Nam provinces on 1,090 reconnaissance missions.

On July 7, in Nghe An province, two F.8s and two A.7s fired *Shrike* missiles on the eastern part of the town and on July 13, an F.8, an A.4 and two A.7s released the same kind of missile on the former site of the hospital west of the town, killing 3 workers and wounding 3 others.

In Ha Tinh province, on July 28, two F.4s released two clusters of explosive bombs on fishing boats about 3 km from Cua Viet (Can Loc district).

In Quang Binh province, on July 15, 1969, two F.4s dropped two sticks of explosive and time-bombs on Minh Hoa district.

In the Vinh Linh area, Huong Lap village, which had experienced 102 air raids in 25 days in 17 localities, was destroyed by explosive bombs, delayed-action bombs, CBUs and other anti-personal bombs.

Most serious was the fact that on July 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17 and 18, 1969 from 7 to 8 a.m. US planes sprayed toxic chemicals on 9 villages north of the DMZ, poisoning thousands of people, killing a great number of domestic animals and ruining croplands.

On July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 27 and 30, 1969, American guns based south of the DMZ and from war vessels slammed 619 shells (of from 174mm to 205mm caliber) on the villages of Vinh Quang, Vinh Thanh, Vinh Son, Vinh Quang and Vinh Tuong.

NIXON's "Unscheduled" and "Closely-Guarded Secret" Visit to Saigon

NIXON'S "unscheduled" visit to Saigon, a "closely-guarded secret," bared the tragic plight of the US imperialists and obdurate aggressive scheme against South Viet Nam.

One of the main objectives of Nixon's Asian tour was to try to limit the very serious consequences of the US aggressive war in South Viet Nam. Despite the use of Apollo 11's *moon-landing as a psy-war ploy, Nixon was unable to conceal his dismay over US unbearable dilemma in Viet Nam.*

What AFP *reported on July 30 as "the first US presidential visit to Saigon" was but a meeting between the US master and his servants, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique.*

It again threw light on the stubborn attitude of the US aggressors who are trying to hold on to the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and using it as a tool to intensify their criminal aggressive war in South Viet Nam.

UPI *on July 30 revealed the US design "to maintain its full support for the Saigon regime" and "to strengthen President Nguyen Van Thieu's hand against outside and domestic adversaries."*

Nixon's Saigon visit was a blatant provocation against public opinion in the world and in the United States now insisting with firmness that Nixon end his aggressive war and withdraw all US troops and troops of foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam. It was also an insolent challenge to the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people who are resolved to replace the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique by a provisional coalition government to restore peace in South Viet Nam.

Thieu-Ky-Huong are but a clique of bellicose and reactionary traitors who are trying to retain the aggressor troops and intensify the US war in South Viet Nam.

Right before Nixon arrived in Saigon, the reactionary gang had openly declared that they would never accept a coalition government and would pursue the war for three or five more years if necessary and threatened to punish anyone who favoured a coalition government. Meanwhile, they put in jail a score of people among them intellectuals, journalists and civilian and military personnel of the puppet administration, on the grounds that they had relations with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Nixon's jaunt to Saigon to express full support to the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique revealed the US aggressors, design to cling to their lackeys to carry on the war and impose US neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam.

Nixon's ballyhoo in Saigon about US-puppet "good will" and "determination to put an end to the war" could deceive nobody.

Nixon's trip to Saigon and what he had discussed with the henchmen are indicative of his scheme to reassure the latter and the US troops, boost up the "de-Americanization" of the war by strengthening the puppet army, rallying the traitors and directing their future political hoaxes. It is coupled with US savage war intensification. At the very moment when Nixon was prattling about his "good will," the US aggressors increased B.52 sorties and toxic chemical sprayings against the people and crops in South Viet Nam. Nixon claimed that the US aggressive war was nearing an end whereas it was being stepped up.

The US aggressors are in a hopeless predicament. Nixon's obduracy can only bring him yet heavier setbacks. Sticking to the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and continuing its aggressive war, will not save the US from complete failure. The only way out for it is to stop this war, pull out of South Viet Nam totally and unconditionally the troops of the US and other foreign countries of the US camp, stop trying to keep in office the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration and respond seriously to the ten-point overall solution of the NFL and RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government.

So long as the US aggressors remain adamant, the Vietnamese people will fight till all the US troops are withdrawn, the puppet army and administration are toppled, and Viet Nam's fundamental national rights are achieved.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, ACCOMPLICE OF THE US GOVERNMENT IN ITS AGGRESSIVE POLICY IN LAOS

UNDER the title *Britain Is an Accomplice of the US in Its Aggressive Policy in Laos*, the Hanoi daily *Nhan Dan* rejected in a commentary the British Government's fresh accusation against the DRVN. It dismissed Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart's claim that the recent war situation in Laos resulted from North Viet Nam's repeated violations of the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos and his assertion of a "serious threat to peace in Laos resulting from North Viet Nam aggression" contained in a message to members of the Geneva Conference on Laos by the Foreign Office of Britain in its capacity as Co-Chairman of the Conference.

The paper pointed out:

"This is not the first time the British Government slanders the DRVN over the Laotian question. In the first half of this year, on many occasions, it made absurd allegations about "the presence of North Viet Nam troops in Laos' and demanded an end to the 'attacks by North Viet Nam troops' in Laos, etc.

"Public opinion in the world and in Britain has been strongly critical of the Wilson Government's tailing after the US in both the Viet Nam and Laotian questions. Britain has acted in contravention of its capacity as Co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference, played the shameful role of an advocate of US aggressive policy in Laos and slandered the DRVN. The British Government has distorted the truth and deliberately ignored the serious crimes of the imperialists who have been systematically undermining the Geneva Agreements, have overthrown the Laotian National Coalition Government, rekindled and fanned up the aggressive war, directly commanded the puppet army, and used the US Air Force against the patriotic forces and Laotian civilians.

"Such a behaviour decidedly is not a serious one. Stewart's charge is but an echo of US-type slanders. His statement is as well as the communique of the British Foreign Office are in harmony with the noisy smear campaign launched by the US to cover up its crimes and minimize the telling counter-blows dealt by the Laotian patriotic forces against the illegal encroachments on the liberated areas...

"The Vietnamese people flatly reject these slanderous accusations and strongly condemn the British Government for pleading for the US. The serious situation in Laos is an outcome of the policy of aggression and intervention of the US which has been flagrantly violating the 1962 Geneva Agreement, sabotaging peace and trampling on the Laotian people's fundamental national rights.

This is an undeniable truth. The only correct way to settle the Laotian question is to stop all acts of US intervention and aggression. In acting in complicity with the US, obdurately opposing the Laotian people and failing to live up to its position as Co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference, the British Government cannot evade its responsibility."

"TO SUPPORT VIET NAM IS A DUTY, A NATURAL STANCE"

(Cuba's President **Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado**)

IN July, progressive movements in the world continued to step up their actions to back the just struggle of the Vietnamese people. Many international and national organizations as well as many leaders of various countries again voiced their support to the Vietnamese people until complete victory.

STATEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IN a resolution on Viet Nam passed during a meeting recently held in Berlin, the **Permanent Secretariat of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers** warmly welcomed the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam, as the authentic and legal representative of the South Vietnamese people, denounced the American aggressors' use of most barbarous war means against the South Viet Nam people. It reaffirmed its full support to the NFL ten-point overall solution and pressed for US unconditional withdrawal of all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and renunciation of its policy of "Vietnamization" of the war of aggression.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Organization of Latin American Students sent to the Vietnamese Students' Union a message reaffirming its complete adhesion to the appeal by President Ho Chi Minh on the occasion of July 20 last.

This appeal, the message said, reflects the just position of the Vietnamese people in face of the imperialists' aggression.

On July 23, a delegation of the **Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam** composed of several outstanding figures from various countries led by **B.Svahnstrom** called on the **delegation of the PRG** of the Republic of South Viet Nam at the Paris conference on Viet Nam to achieve a genuine peace in independence and freedom for the South Vietnamese people.

More than 170 members of the **General Council of Japanese Trade Unions** coming to Moscow to attend Lenin's centenary celebrations held a meeting of solidarity with and support to Viet Nam. Speaking at the gathering **I. Nakata**, head of Youth Committee in the General Council, strongly condemned the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and denounced the Japanese reactionary authorities' complicity with the US administration in this war. He reaffirmed the support of the Japanese youth and people to the four-points of the DRVN Government and the ten-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL.

According to ADN, in a letter to Swedish Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson, the **Swedish Social Democratic Youth Association** pressed for the earliest possible diplomatic recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

In **India, more than 50 political parties and mass organisations** on July 20 held a meeting for the unconditional withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam.

The participants approved a resolution urging that the South Viet Nam problem be settled in accordance with the 10-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and that India recognize the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government without delay.

FINE WORDS OF SUPPORT FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES

ON AUGUST 1st, **Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, Polit Bureau member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, President of the Republic of Cuba,** declared: "To support Viet Nam is for us a duty, a natural stance. We realize with every passing day that the stand of the Vietnamese people proves more and more exemplary. We reaffirm that it is the Cuban people and the other peoples of the world that owe gratitude to the Vietnamese people. We have absolute confidence in our Vietnamese comrades."

During a recent interview with the DRVN Chargé d'affaires in People's Republic of China, **Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien** acclaimed the firm determination of the Vietnamese people to defeat the American aggressors, as clearly expressed in the appeal by President Ho Chi Minh on July 20th.

Li Hsien-nien castigated the obstinacy of the United States which has been for long sabotaging all the agreements reached at the Geneva Conference on Viet Nam in 1954. He reaffirmed the Chinese Government and people's unshakeable resolve to back the struggle of the Vietnamese people against US aggression until final victory.

On July 26th, **Ahmed Hassan Al Bakr, President of the Republic of Iraq,** sent a message to President Ho Chi Minh and Premier Pham Van Dong, thanking them for their congratulation on the occasion of the Eleventh National Festival of the Republic of Iraq. The message said among other things, "I wish that the Vietnamese people who are fighting against American imperialism with unusual heroism achieve their national objectives. I would like to stress that the Iraqi people support your heroic struggle and wish you new successes in the building of pillars for Viet Nam's independence and unity."

In a speech at an education camp organized in Tabka by the Syrian Students' Union, **Habib Hadad, Polit Bureau member of the Arab Renaissance Socialist Party,** praised the struggle of the Vietnamese people, saying, "The victory of the heroic Vietnamese people in their gallant fight is the victory of all peoples now struggling for liberation and progress in the world. We are supporting and will support unreservedly the heroic fight of the Vietnamese people for the complete liberation of their country."

In a talk with DRVN ambassador to the UAR on July 29, Mr. **Bakakr Awadalha, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Soudan,** on a visit to the UAR said, "the Soudanese Government and people fully approve and whole-heartedly support the just struggle of the Vietnamese people; they are firmly convinced that that struggle for the liberation of South Viet Nam and reunification of Viet Nam will win final victory."

News from LAOS

At Paksuong, Laotian Patriotic Forces Foil Raid of Rightist Army Battalions

FROM July 6 to 20, the patriotic forces at Paksuong and Phathuong, northeast of Luang Prabang province, beat off an operation launched by 5 battalions of the reactionary rightist army supported by US air force.

According to initial reports, pursuing the enemy in the Paksuong area, on July 7, the Luang Prabang patriots put out of action 91 men including Lieutenant Colonel Buon Than. They also destroyed 60 firearms and various storehouses of military equipment.

In total, the enemy took 158 casualties in this operation.

Puppet Army Loses 3,200 Men in 9 Months

ACCORDING to still incomplete figures released by KPL Press Agency, in the last 9 months the puppet army has lost more than 3,200 men (2,390 in the dry season and over 800 in June and July 1969) by desertion, mutiny or defection, or capture by the patriotic forces.

At Udomsay, four cases of collective surrender have involved a company of bandits, and a commando platoon.

On March 6, in Sam-Neua province, a platoon stationed at Phaluom went over to the liberation armed forces.

Sixty puppet soldiers broke away in Muong Sui and Xieng Khoang provinces.

Collective desertions were most frequent in December 1968 and January 1969, affecting for instance 57 soldiers of Special Battalions 208 and 209.

A puppet company garrisoned at Phousathon, Paktha district, Udomsay province, mutinied on March 29, 1969.

In June 1969, a puppet platoon stationed at Salaphoukhun rebelled against their American and puppet commanders and crossed over to the side of the patriotic forces.

WEST GERMAN IMPERIALISTS' "GREY PLAN"

THE tremendous efforts made by the West German imperialists to get nuclear weapons, the goal they contemplate in making chemical and bacteriological weapons, and the fact that they let the United States openly store these wholesale destruction weapons in their country constitute irrefutable evidence of their bellicose nature, their intimate collusion with the American imperialists and their war preparation. These schemes and acts of the Bonn authorities seriously threaten peace and security in Europe and the rest of the world.

Their plan to develop and manufacture chemical and bacteriological weapons once again proves that, in the hands of the West German militarist revanchists and of the US imperialists, science and technology are misused to serve their policy of repression, exploitation and war.

Kissinger's so-called "East West reconciliation plan" and the "peace" hoax Nixon has been peddling all along his trip to Asia cannot cover up their plots of war provocation and aggression.

The West German imperialists who do their best to help the American imperialists in the aggressive war in Viet Nam by supplying them with arms, including chemical weapons, to massacre the South Vietnamese people, are the enemy not only of the German Democratic Republic and the other peoples in Europe, but of the Vietnamese people as well.

Therefore, the Vietnamese people fully support the GDR people's demand for the removal of the US imperialists stocks of bacteriological and chemical weapons from West Germany, and cessation of their development and manufacture there as well as in West German capitalist firms set up in other countries.

They insist that the West German imperialists cancel their so-called "grey plan" and all other plans of aggression against the GDR and the other socialist countries, and end their collusion with the American imperialists in the aggressive war in Viet Nam.

Utter Impotence and Tragic Fate of US Troops...

(*Continued from page 7*)

defence lines as are the cases of the 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division, the latter having become in fact a second air mobile cavalry.

The *Washington Post* on April 22, 1969 reported that General Shoup, ex-commander of the US Marines, had explicitly admitted that the US forces were overstretched and exhausted. This explains why, in spite a record "density" of troops and war material in South Viet Nam, the US command always feels a Tantalus thirst. In such conditions, to ask him to "maintain maximum pressure" on the adversary is just as absurd as to ask a wrestler with an adversary in a vantage position to throw the latter down and back-fall him.

SOCCER PLAYERS STRAYED ON A TENNIS COURT

MORE than in any other western army, specialisation has reached a very high level in the US armed forces, mostly so in the organisation, equipment and training of troops to fulfil the tasks assigned, to conquer lands and to face the adversary. The basic strategy elaborated by the Pentagon and on which the whole military apparatus of the United States is built is an offensive strategy relying on the most modern weaponry and techniques and prepared to confront eventual adversaries who are highly industrialized powers, conducting a classic war in a theatre provided with a developed infrastructure.

In the tactical field, specialisation reaches down even to the divisional echelon. Thus, the "marines" whose job it is to establish and maintain bridgeheads on the coast, have been trained for amphibious operations in coastal regions where the US naval and air superiority will help easily solve all logistic problems. The air mobile divisions constitute, as mentioned above, "stunning" strike forces, not by the tonnage of their equipment, but by the rapidity and fire power given them by more than 400 helicopters of transport and "gunships" (for each division). The mechanized units are designed to pack "armour punches" on dry and not too rugged terrains, etc.

Now, all these units so differently conceived, equipped, trained, run and all meant for an offensive war, are entrusted with similar jobs in a defensive strategy into which they have been forced. It is safe to say that the US armed forces in South Viet Nam have been out of their element. Is it not true, for instance, that "marines" have got mired down in the deep jungles of the mountainous hinterlands of Khe Sanh, or "flying horsemen" had to "dig in" in deep bunkers on a static defence line?

No doubt, the Pentagon has made great efforts to "redeploy" its units in Viet Nam and adapt them to battles of the choice of an adversary whose valour, tenacity, intelligence and military genius has commanded its admiration and respect. However, the sin is original and these efforts have often done it more harm than good: organisation upset, tactics disrupted, mission rendered ambiguous... Under such conditions, it is quite natural that the results obtained by the American forces on the battlefield cannot be any brighter than these of footballers — even though they are champions — strayed with their studded boots, their heavy shin-guards, knee-caps and anklets on... the cement floor of a tennis court!

It has become patent that willing to "exert maximum military pressure" in South Viet Nam with tired out forces is a mere utopia if not a frightful folly of the Pentagon. If, during the years 1965-67, with fresh troops brought in en masse, the counter-offensive strategy failed pitifully, how can it hope, given the present balance of forces, to apply any pressure, however light, on an adversary who are sailing off the wind?

TO MAKE BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW

TO keep an expeditionary corps of nearly 550,000 men in action in South Viet Nam, the United States has been compelled, according to the western press, to draft more than 1.5 million recruits to make up for the losses sustained and ensure the 12-month duty rotation of the GIs in Viet Nam. Besides, nearly 5 million national defence workers have been put to the service of the war (manufacture of arms, munitions and military equipment, logistic transport, etc.). That means that the Viet Nam adventure is posing to Washington a very arduous problem in the matter of troop strength and finance, but more serious still, has had profound repercussions among the public by arousing a tidal wave of opposition to the Viet Nam policy of the White House. Therefore, to "cut down US losses in Viet Nam to the lowest level possible" has become a primary "must" for Washington, militarily and politically as well. Increased casualties are, as the English paper the *Times* put it on April 2, 1969, a "political dynamite" for President Nixon and many other Americans. It is for this reason that they have ordered Abrams to reorientate the war. Measures have been taken to this effect by the "Eastern Pentagon" in Saigon, the crux of which remains the classical "recourse to fire power to support attacks of the infantry." The latter which, in principle, should be the determining factor of victory in any war, has been in fact relegated to the secondary role of "support fire" for the artillery and air force of which it acts as a target-spotting force of reconnaissance.

US soldiers wounded in a battle.

However, Abrams's calculations have failed to take into account one fundamental point: the initiative is solidly in the hands of the patriots, hence the level of US toll depends not as much on the Americans as on the Vietnamese, the People's Liberation Armed Forces.

The US losses in 1968 equalled those of the two previous years put together and exceeded by three times the "bearable limit" for American opinion, rated at 50,000 deaths and wounded per year! The United States has, for its own admission, sustained in Viet Nam casualties higher than in any war so far, but the Second World War!

Since February last, almost all the 9 full divisions and 5 independent brigades of the US have been drubbed. More than half of them have been very seriously battered: according to US sources, *Tropic Lightning* and *Americal* divisions have depleted each of half its strength and equipment. In May, it was the turn of the "First Cav" and the 101st "Para"...

An alarming fact (for the Americans) is that the rate to officers and technicians put out of action has been rising continually and has surpassed that in any previous wars conducted by the United States. The same has happened to the means of war (planes, helicopters, vehicles, artillery...) and fuel.

This state of things has not only eroded the morale of the US-puppet troops but also placed the Americans before a permanent shortage of troops and a constantly unstable organisational posture. Many battalions are only 55% to 65% of their regular strength and the lack of subaltern officers has been acutely felt although the Pentagon has given a "shot in the arm" by transferring many from units stationed in Europe and elsewhere.

The conflict between different tendencies within government circles in Washington is aggravating with the skyrocketing of American losses in Viet Nam. The bitter exchanges between senators and members of the Nixon administration following the A Bia ("Hamburger Hill" as the GIs call it) disaster in May last are eloquent proofs. Some thought that thousands of GIs had been "sacrificed for a false sense of military pride" while others maintained that these attacks, costly as they were, were the best way to cut down American losses.

Thus the order given by Nixon to the US troops to maintain maximum military pressure while cutting down US toll to the minimum appears as realistic as to make an omelet without breaking eggs. According to *AP* on May 28 last, the *New York Times* termed it "a false reasoning to justify a tragic fact." Understandably enough, the results of this tactical directive on the battlefield are quite disappointing for the Pentagon. They are only the expressions of the powerlessness of the American troops confronted with the people's war in South Viet Nam and the tragic fate which is in store for them. Therefore the head of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to the Paris Conference, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, has every reason to point out that the only honourable and advantageous course of action left for the United States is to pull out all its troops and troops of its South Korean, Thailand, Australian, New Zealand, Filipino mercenaries from South Viet Nam without laying down any condition, end its aggression and respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people.

GIs' tragic fate.

Military Operations

HUE REGION

AUGUST 4, west of **A Bia** (Hamburger Hill) where US Airborne Division 101 had suffered a real disaster in May last, the PLAF assaulted Battalion 3, US Armoured Division 5 and 2 battalions of Airborne Division 101 : 300 GIs killed or wounded, 25 armoured vehicles wrecked. Meanwhile a puppet regimental CP nearby was bombarded : many casualties in the garrison. The following day, a US company and a puppet company sent to its rescue were wiped out. In total, 500 enemy soldiers were put out of action in two days.

August 3 and 5, PLAF artillery pounded many enemy positions south of **DMZ**, blotting out 16 fuel tanks, 4 choppers, 2 cannons and many military vehicles.

In **Quang Tri** and **Thua Thien** provinces, PLAF men put out of action in July 4,000 adverse troops (1,800 GIs), downed, destroyed or damaged 50 aircraft and wrecked 70 military vehicles, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. At A Bia alone, 760 men (mostly GIs of Airborne Division 101) were killed or wounded.

DA NANG AND CENTRAL TRUNG BO

IN PLAF attacks in the first 4 days of July last in a locality 35 km south of **Da Nang**, a puppet company was written off the musterroll and 2 others decimated : 142 casualties.

August 3,21 km southwest of Da Nang, 20 Marines of Regiment 5 were killed and an F4 and a chopper downed.

100 km south, southeast of Da Nang, near Duc Pho, 90 GIs were put out of actions in the PLAF onset against a company of *American* Division on July 19.

According to the Western press, the PLAF mounted on August 7 a daring attack on **Cam Ranh** airfield, exacting about one hundred GIs casualties. The same day, **Nha Trang** military complex was bombarded.

SAIGON FRONT

JULY 22, the patriots hammered at :

— a motorized column near **Loc Ninh**, 118 km north of Saigon : 16 armoured vehicles destroyed, 85 GIs disabled, 2 choppers grounded ;

— 2 puppet companies near **Vinh Cuu**, 40 km north east of the city : 50 Rangers knocked out ;

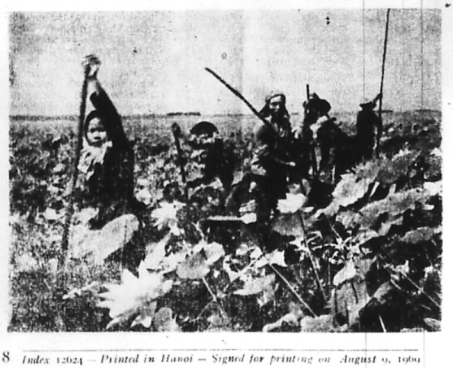
— at **Binh Chanh**, 20 km southwest of Saigon : 40 puppet soldiers put out of action.

August 3, the PLAF blew up a bridge on **Bien Hoa-Vung Tau** strategic road, interrupting traffic on it and intercepted units of Brigade 3, US Infantry Division 9, 18 km west of Saigon, Western agencies reported.

1,200 enemy troops (970 GIs) and 23 military vehicles put out of action, 34 aircraft downed and 17 war vessels sunk, was the battle count of PLAF engagements in **Tay Ninh** province between July 3 and 25, *Giai Phong* Press Agency said.

Losses in enemy aircraft in July were heavy : over 100 planes and helicopters put out of commission, according to the US command in Saigon, bringing the total of US aircraft lost since January 1961 to 5,687.

Civilians in Plain of Reeds supplying the front



(*Continued from page 1*)

major towns and to undertake when necessary, a role to which they are so ill fitted : pacification.

The failure of this new strategy has been graphically demonstrated by the " post-*Tet* " offensives of this year and the various drives of onslaughts that have taken place one after another since February.

Within 35 days, from February 23 to end of March, the PLAF put out of action 104,000 enemy troops among them 56,000 GIs and mercenaries of US satellites, shot down, damaged or destroyed on the ground 1,600 planes, knocked out of action 2,900 military vehicles (including 1,440 tanks and armoured cars), 530 artillery pieces, sank or set afire 275 warships or combat launches, blotted out 270 logistic storages, etc.

In May, the losses were no less frightful for the enemy : over 400 targets in the more than 130 towns and urban centres were hit, 65,000 troops among them 30,000 GIs and foreign mercenaries, 1,100 vehicles including 620 tanks and armoured cars and 250 cannons and heavy mortars wiped out, 600 fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters shot down or blasted to pieces on the ground, 65 warships sunk or damaged.

The patriots have exploited with great success the " inborn " weaknesses and contradictions of the enemy at present when the latter has been driven deeper into the defensive : his morale at the lowest ebb, passivity and scatteredness further aggravated, inaptitude of the US units to the tasks assigned, as far as organisation, equipment as well as training are concerned.

GIs' MORALE NEVER SO LOW

THIS has been recognized today by every unbiased and sober-minded person in the United States and the rest of the world.

"De-Americanisation" of the War

Utter Impotence and Tragic Fate of US Troops in South Viet Nam

The aggression against Viet Nam has, more than anything else, seriously split the American nation. This does honour to the latter which has thus shown that it is still able to safeguard its conscience in spite of the formidable brain cramming effected with the help of immense mass media, a wide panoply of different philosophic conceptions intended to sow confusion in the minds, and a mode and way of life aimed at depriving man of what is his prerogative : thought... The fake patriotism, the false conception of " national honour " which the successive democratic and republican administrations have been trying to inculcate into American opinion to get its support for their imperialistic policy, have lost their appeal. On the contrary, there has been a veritable " revolt " of public opinion in the United States, demanding prompt withdrawal of the expeditionary corps. The rebellion has spread to the leadership of both parties of the American oligarchy. The war in Viet Nam has placed the country before insurmountable difficulties, economic, financial and social as well as political and military. The Yankee imperialists' aggressive will has visibly faltered, as the punishment on the battlefields has become " unbearable " for the American people.

The antiwar protest has been extending quickly among the GIs, even in South Viet Nam, to whom the psywar services have proved completely incapable of giving them an " ideal " to fight and to kill innocent people and patriots and mostly to get killed for. The corruption and rottenness of the Saigon puppet regime to boot disgust them. The American press made no secret of this dissent and *Washington Daily News* on May 8 last reported that more and more servicemen had been openly protesting against the Viet Nam war. Desertions, mutinies, revolts and self-mutilations and even suicides are multiplying and causing grave concern in the US command. Never before has the morale of the American armed forces dropped so low, and it is universally agreed that the moral and political factor is one of the decisive factors of the victory of an army in war.

WEAKER AND MORE THINLY SCATTERED THAN EVER

THE tactics which Abrams has been using consists in not sitting tight and waiting for the adversary to strike, but in parrying the blows by striking first. This seems completely rational. However, what have actually been the results on the battlefield, while strategically, Abrams has already been driven on to the defensive ?

It is in the context of this tactics that since the beginning of this year, various clearing operations have been mounted especially in the areas of Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh in the northwest of Saigon, A Bia, south-west of Hue and the area west of Road No 9, around Khe Sanh, quite close to the Demilitarized Zone at the 17th parallel. Have they achieved their ends ? The PLAF offensives of February-March and May this year are answer enough.

In this strategic disposition, the " Eastern Pentagon " in Saigon wants to concentrate their forces on the key-areas : the 1st and 3rd tactical areas. In the first, one third of the forces is deployed around Da Nang defended almost solely by US Marines. In the third zone, three-quarters of the forces, i.e. 100 battalions of US-puppet troops, constitute " protection belts " around Saigon.

However, the people's war in Viet Nam has developed to such an extent that the patriots are now capable of attacking in all directions and in every place : frontal assaults directed at Saigon, onsets coming from inside enemy lines... As a result, the aggressors and the puppets, for all their numerical and technical superiority, always find themselves in a position of weakness whenever and wherever the adversary chooses to attack, and sustain ever heavier reverses. As a remedy, the enemy command is obliged to spread its forces inside his battle array, hence it is not rare to see mobile forces of intervention stretched thin along static

(*Continued page 7*)